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STAINLESS STEEL ROUND WIRE FROM JAPAN

Determination of "A Reasonable Indication of Injury" in Inquiry No. AA1921-Inq.-17, Under the Antidumping Act, 1921, as Amended

COMPLETED
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USITC PUBLICATION 907

AUGUST 1978

United States International Trade Commission / Washington, D.C. 20436

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UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

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FOR RELEASE
August 25, 1978

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USITC 78-101

USITC REPORTS ON DUMPING INQUIRY ON STAINLESS STEEL ROUND WIRE FROM JAPAN

Treasury Investigation to Continue

The United States International Trade Commission today notified the Secretary of the Treasury that the pending Treasury Department inquiry on stainless steel round wire from Japan under the Antidumping Act, 1921, should not be terminated.

The Commission had been asked to determine if there was no reasonable indication of injury or the likelihood of injury to an industry in the United States from imports of such products. The Commission, which instituted its inquiry on August 1, 1978, determined that there was a reasonable indication of injury or the likelihood thereof.

Vice Chairman Bill Alberger and Commissioners George M. Moore, Catherine Bedell, and Italo H. Ablondi concurred in the determination. Chairman Joseph O. Parker and Commissioner Daniel Minchew did not participate.

As a result of the determination, the Treasury Department will continue its investigation, which it instituted under the Antidumping Act upon receipt of a complaint from U.S. firms which produce stainless steel round wire: Alloy Wire Manufacturing Co., Houston,

Tex. Al Tech Specialty Steel Corp., Dunkirk, N.Y.; ARMCO Steel Corp., Philadelphia, Pa.; Branford Wire Manufacturing Co., North Haven, Conn.; Brookfield Wire Co., Inc., Brookfield, Mass.; Carpenter Technology Corp., Reading, Pa.; Crucible Inc., Specialty Metals Division, Syracuse, N.Y.; Cylops Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa., Harris Metals Co., Holyoke, Mass.; Industrial Alloys, Inc., City of Industry, Calif.; Madison Wire Co., Buffalo, N.Y.; Mapes Piano String Co., Elizabethton, Tenn.; Maryland Specialty Wire Co., Cockeysville, Md.; National Standard Co., Niles, Mich.; H.K. Porter Company, Co., Alloy Metals Wire Works, Prospect Park, Pa.; Tech-alloy Co., Inc., Rahns, Pa.; and Willing B. Wire Corp., Beverly, N.J.

The Commission held a public hearing in connection with the investigation on August 17, 1978, in Washington, D.C.

Stainless steel round wire is a finished, drawn, nontubular product, round in cross section, in coils or cut to length, and not over 0.703 inch in diameter. Its uses are innummerable, with significant quantities consumed in the production of fasteners and other cold-headed products such as nails, bolts, screws, springs, strand, rope, welding wire, and woven or knitted products.

In the United States stainless steel round wire is produced by three types of firms--the integrated steel producers, the independent wire drawers, and-end product manufacturers.

Domestic consumption of stainless steel wire in January-June 1978 was at an annual rate of 244 million pounds, or about 2 per-

cent below the consumption of 248 million pounds in the peak year of 1974. Both total imports and imports from Japan in January-June 1978 were at record high levels, and it is estimated they will account for 28 percent and 14 percent of U.S. consumption, respectively, in 1978.

U.S. producers' prices for stainless steel round wire fluctuated within a narrow range during 1976-77 and January-June 1978. In this same period the average lowest price of two representative items imported from Japan undersold comparable domestically produced items by amounts ranging from 41 to 9 percent.

The Commission's report, Stainless Steel Round Wire From Japan (USITC Publication 907), contains the views of the Commissioners and information developed in the inquiry (No. AA1921-Inq.-17). Copies may be obtained by calling (202) 523-5178 or from the Office of the Secretary, 701 E Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20436.

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Note.--Information which would disclose confidential operations of individual concerns may not be published and therefore has been deleted from this report. Deletions are indicated by asterisks.

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

August 25, 1978

[AA1921-Inq.-17]

STAINLESS STEEL ROUND WIRE FROM JAPAN

Commission Determines "A Reasonable Indication of Injury"

On July 26, 1978, the United States International Trade Commission received advice from the Treasury Department that, in accordance with section 201(c)(1) of the Antidumping Act, 1921, as amended, an antidumping investigation was being initiated with respect to stainless steel round wire from Japan, and that, pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the act, information developed during Treasury's preliminary investigation led to the conclusion that there is substantial doubt whether an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of such merchandise into the United States. Accordingly, the Commission, on August 1, 1978, instituted inquiry No. AA1921-Inq.-17 under section 201(c)(2) of the act, to determine whether there is no reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of such merchandise into the United States.

On the basis of information developed during the course of the inquiry the Commission (Chairman Joseph O. Parker and Commissioner Daniel Minchew not participating) unanimously determines that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of stainless steel round wire from Japan allegedly sold at less than fair value as indicated by the Department of the Treasury.

The Treasury Department instituted its investigation after receiving a complaint on July 14, 1978, filed by counsel on behalf of 15 U.S. firms which produce stainless steel round wire. Treasury's notice of its antidumping proceeding was published in the Federal Register of July 28, 1978 (43 F.R. 32914).

A public hearing was held on August 17, 1978, in Washington, D.C. Notice of the institution of the inquiry and hearing was duly given by posting copies of the notice at the Secretary's office in the Commission in Washington, D.C., and at the Commission's office in New York City, and by publishing the original notice in the Federal Register of August 4, 1978 (43 F.R. 34546).

STATEMENT OF REASONS OF COMMISSIONERS GEORGE M. MOORE,
CATHERINE BEDELL, AND ITALO H. ABLONDI

On July 26, 1978, the United States International Trade Commission received advice from the Department of the Treasury that during the course of the preliminary antidumping investigation with respect to stainless steel round wire from Japan, Treasury had concluded from the information available to it "that there is substantial doubt that an industry in the United States is being, or is likely to be, injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of this merchandise into the United States." Acting on this advice the Commission, on August 1, 1978, instituted inquiry No. AA1921-Inq.-17 (stainless steel round wire from Japan) under section 201(c)(2) of the Antidumping Act, 1921, as amended, to determine whether there is no reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, 1/ by reason of the importation of such merchandise into the United States.

Determination

On the basis of information developed during the course of this inquiry we determine that the standards set forth in section 201(c)(2) of the Antidumping Act, 1921, as amended for continuing the investigation have been met.

The domestic industry

In this inquiry, we consider the relevant domestic industry to consist of the facilities in the United States used in the production of stainless steel round wire. Approximately 50 firms produced this type of wire in the United States in 1977.

1/ Prevention of establishment of an industry in this inquiry is not in question and will not be discussed further in this statement.

Discussion

The Department of the Treasury advised the Commission that the petitioners had alleged margins of sales at less than fair value on imports of stainless steel round wire from Japan of as much as 65 percent. Imports of this wire from Japan have been large, accounting for almost 13 percent of U.S. consumption during 1972-77. During January-June 1978 these imports were at a record high annual rate of 34 million pounds.

U.S. producers' prices for representative items of stainless steel round wire were relatively unchanged during 1976-77 and January-June 1978, a period of rapidly rising production costs. Throughout this period, the prices of selected items of wire imported from Japan undersold comparable items of domestically produced wire by margins of between 41 and 9 percent. The availability of large quantities of Japanese wire at a substantial price advantage has tended to suppress domestic producers prices. In addition, U.S. producers reported 24 instances where they had lost sales of stainless steel round wire to imports from Japan during January-June 1978. The Commission confirmed that in 12 of these instances involving sales of approximately 1 million pounds of wire, the U.S. producers had lost sales as a result of their customers buying stainless steel wire imported from Japan.

Six of nine U.S. firms which provided the Commission with profit and loss data reported losses on their stainless steel round wire operations in 1976 and four firms reported losses on these operations in 1977 and January-June 1978. Furthermore, the ratio of U.S. producers' net operating profit to net sales declined sharply in recession year 1975 to about 8 percent and remained unchanged at this same level in 1976-77 and January-June 1978.

Thus, despite increases in U.S. consumption, production, and shipments of stainless steel round wire during 1976, 1977, and January-June 1978, U.S. producers' prices for stainless steel wire and the profits of their stainless steel round wire operations remain at or below the levels reported in recession year 1975.

Conclusion

We therefore conclude that there is a reasonable indication of injury or the likelihood of injury to the domestic industry producing stainless steel round wire by reason of alleged LTFV imports from Japan.

Statement of Reasons of Vice Chairman
Bill Alberger

Statutory criteria of section 201(c)(2)

If the Secretary of the Treasury concludes, during a preliminary investigation under the Antidumping Act of 1921, as amended, that there is substantial doubt regarding possible injury to an industry in the United States, he shall forward to the U.S. International Trade Commission (Commission) his reasons for such doubt. Within 30 days of receipt of the Secretary's reasons, the Commission shall determine whether there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, 1/ by reason of the importation of merchandise allegedly sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV). This inquiry, instituted on August 1, 1978, concerns stainless steel round wire from Japan.

Determination

On the basis of information developed during the course of this inquiry, I determine that there is a reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured by reason of the importation of stainless steel round wire into the United States from Japan allegedly sold at less than fair value as indicated by the Department of the Treasury (Treasury).

1/ Prevention of establishment of an industry in this inquiry is not in question and will not be discussed further in this statement.

The domestic industry

In this inquiry, I consider the relevant domestic industry to consist of the facilities in the United States used in the production of stainless steel round wire. Such facilities are operated by three types of firms--integrated steel producers, independent wire drawers, and end product manufacturers. Approximately 50 firms produced this type of wire in the United States in 1977.

Information regarding alleged margins of LTFV sales

Treasury advised the Commission that the petitioner alleged margins of LTFV sales of as much as 65 percent.

A Reasonable Indication of Injury

Imports from Japan--Imports from Japan were at a record high level in 1977 when they increased by 42 percent over the quantity imported in 1976. January-June 1978 statistics show that imports from Japan have increased by 2 percent over the corresponding period in 1977 and at that rate would represent 14 percent of total U.S. consumption.

U.S. production and shipments--1977 was the highest level of production and shipments in the past three years and the January-June, 1978 figures, if annualized, indicate 1978 levels will be up even further. These increases reflect increased consumption in the U.S. market to levels that will be near the peak year, 1974, if the January-June 1978 rate of consumption is maintained over the last half of the year.

Capacity utilization--Data obtained by the Commission indicates that capacity utilization rates for January-June 1978, at 85 percent, are at the highest levels since 1974. In 1975, the rates took a sharp drop and have since climbed steadily upward.

Employment--In 1978, the number of workers engaged in the production of stainless steel round wire was at its highest level for the past four years. After taking a downward slide in 1975, it has moved upward at a relatively steady rate in each of the last three years.

Profitability--The net operating profit to net sales ratio for stainless steel round wire operations peaked in 1974 at a level of 12 percent. With the economic downturn in 1975, profits dipped to slightly above 8 percent and have remained around that level since that time. Of the nine firms furnishing the Commission with profit and loss data, six reported losses in 1976, and four showed losses in 1977 and the first half of 1978.

Prices--From 1976 through June, 1978, a time of rapidly increasing production costs, producers' prices for stainless steel round wire have remained virtually unchanged. During this period, the prices of representative items of Japanese wire undersold comparable U.S. wire by margins ranging from 9 to 41 percent. This price advantage, combined with the ready availability of Japanese wire for the U.S. market, appears to have worked as a depressant on U.S. prices and has had a corresponding effect on the domestic producers' profit picture.

Lost sales--Of attempts to check on 24 allegations of sales lost to imports, 12 were verified as having been lost to Japanese producers of stainless steel round wire and four were traced to countries other than Japan.

Conclusion

As I have stated previously, 30-day investigations require that the Commission need only find a reasonable indication of injury. The data gathered in this inquiry point to growing U.S. consumption, production, shipments, employment and capacity utilization from 1976 forward. Imports from Japan are increasing, and the penetration level is significant. Profits for the total industry are at reasonable levels, but most of the firms responding to our questionnaire are in bad shape financially. Prices have shown little growth since 1975 in the face of rising production costs, thereby suggesting the possibility of price suppression. Finally, there are 12 verified instances of lost sales.

The indices the Commission must consider point both ways based on our preliminary data, but on balance I believe there is sufficient concern about the health of the industry to constitute a "...reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured...by reason of importation of stainless steel round wire into the United States from Japan."

SUMMARY

On August 1, 1978, the United States International Trade Commission instituted inquiry No. A1921-Inq.-17 on stainless steel round wire after receiving advice from Treasury on July 26, 1978, that there is substantial doubt that imports of the subject merchandise from Japan alleged to be sold at less than fair value are the cause of present or future injury to an industry in the United States. Treasury's advice is consequent to a preliminary antidumping investigation it initiated in response to a petition it received on July 14, 1978, from counsel acting on behalf of 17 domestic producers. The petitioners contend that the importation of stainless steel round wire from Japan at less than fair value is causing them injury in terms of price suppression and depression, reduced profitability, and underutilization of capacity.

In the United States, stainless steel round wire is produced by three types of firms--the integrated steel producers, the independent wire drawers, and end-product manufacturers. Stainless steel round wire is used in the production of fasteners, springs, strand, rope, and welding wire.

U.S. consumption of stainless steel round wire in January-June 1978 was at a level which when annualized amounts to 244 million pounds (table 1, app. A), or about 2 percent below consumption in the peak year of 1974. Both total imports and imports from Japan in January-June 1978 were at record-high levels; it is estimated that they will account for 28 and 14 percent, respectively, of U.S. consumption in 1978.

U.S. producers' prices for stainless steel round wire fluctuated within a narrow range from January 1976 to June 1978. In the same period the average lowest selling price of two representative types imported from Japan undersold comparable domestically produced types by amounts ranging from 41 to 9 percent.

INFORMATION OBTAINED IN THE INVESTIGATION

Introduction

On July 26, 1978, the U.S. International Trade Commission received advice from the Treasury Department that in accordance with section 201(c)(1) of the Antidumping Act, 1921, as amended, an antidumping investigation was being initiated with respect to stainless steel round wire from Japan and that information developed during Treasury's preliminary investigation had led to the conclusion that there is substantial doubt whether an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of this merchandise into the United States. 1/ Accordingly, the Commission, on August 1, 1978, instituted inquiry No. AA1921-Inq.-17 under section 201(c)(2) of the act to determine whether there is no reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of such merchandise into the United States.

A public hearing was held on August 17, 1978, in Washington, D.C. Notice of the institution of the inquiry and hearing was duly given by posting copies of the notice at the Office of the Secretary in the Commission in Washington, D.C., and at the Commission's office in New York City, and by publishing the original notice in the Federal Register of August 4, 1978 (43 F.R. 34546). 2/

The Treasury Department instituted its investigation after receiving a complaint on July 14, 1978, filed by counsel on behalf of 17 U.S. firms, which produce stainless steel round wire. 3/ Treasury's notice of its antidumping proceeding was published in the Federal Register of July 28, 1978 (43 F.R. 32914). 4/

1/ Treasury's letter is presented in app. B.

2/ A copy of the Commission's notice is presented in app. C.

3/ Alloy Wire Manufacturing Co., Houston, Tex.; Al Tech Specialty Steel Corp., Dunkirk, N.Y.; ARMCO Steel Corp., Philadelphia, Pa.; Branford Wire Manufacturing Co., North Haven, Conn.; Brookfield Wire Co., Inc., Brookfield, Mass.; Carpenter Technology Corp., Reading, Pa.; Crucible, Inc., Specialty Metals Division, Syracuse, N.Y.; Cyclops Corp., Pittsburgh, Pa.; Harris Metals Co., Holyoke, Mass.; Industrial Alloys, Inc., City of Industry, Calif.; Madison Wire Co., Buffalo, N.Y.; Mapes Piano String Co., Elizabethton, Tenn.; Maryland Specialty Wire Co., Cockeysville, Md.; National Standard Co., Niles, Mich.; H. K. Porter Co. Inc., Alloy Metals Wire Works, Prospect Park, Pa.; Techalloy Co., Inc., Rahns, Pa.; and Willing B. Wire Corp., Beverly, N.J.

4/ A copy of Treasury's notice of its antidumping proceeding is presented in app. D.

In the event that the U.S. International Trade Commission finds in the affirmative--that there is no reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of stainless steel round wire from Japan that may be sold in the United States at less than fair value (LTFV)--the Treasury Department will terminate its investigation as to the fact or likelihood of sales of such merchandise at less than fair value. In the event that the Commission finds in the negative, the Treasury Department's investigation will continue. The Commission's determination is due to the Secretary of the Treasury no later than August 25, 1978.

The Commission has conducted two previous investigations involving stainless steel round wire--a worker investigation under section 301(c)(2) of the Trade Expansion Act of 1962 and an import-relief investigation undersection 201 of the Trade Act of 1974. 1/ The Commission made negative determinations in both cases.

Description and Uses

Stainless steel round wire is a finished, drawn, nontubular product, round in cross section, in coils or cut to length, and not over 0.703 inch in diameter. Stainless steel refers to any alloy steel which contains by weight less than 1 percent of carbon and over 11.5 percent of chromium. 2/

Stainless steel round wire is produced by cold-drawing 3/ stainless steel wire rod 4/ (or wire) of appropriate alloy composition through one or more carbide or diamond dies. As the wire rod (or wire) passes through each die, its diameter is reduced and its length is increased. Variables such as initial rod (or wire) diameter, final wire diameter, and end-use applications determine the number of reductions that must take place. Most, if not all, stainless steel round wire is drawn at speeds substantially below 2,000 feet

1/ Stainless-Steel Wire: Production, Maintenance, and Salaried Workers, the Carpenter Technology Corporation Plant, North Brunswick, New Jersey: Report to the President on Investigation No. TEA-W-78 . . ., TC Publication 383, 1971; Round Stainless Steel Wire: Report to the President on Investigation No. TA-201-13 . . ., USITC Publication 779, 1976. In addition to the Commission's investigations, the U.S. Department of Labor has certified as eligible for import relief approximately 1,400 workers in the stainless steel wire-drawing operations of six domestic producers.

2/ Headnote 2(h)(iv) to pt. 2B of schedule 6 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States. Stainless steel wire may contain--depending upon the physical properties desired--other alloying elements in addition to the requisite chromium, such as, nickel, titanium, silicon, manganese, and molybdenum.

3/ Cold-drawing refers to a mechanical process in which wire rod (or wire) is pulled through dies in order to produce new structural and mechanical properties, such as a reduction in diameter and increase in hardness.

4/ Wire rod is a coiled, semifinished, hot-rolled product of solid cross section, approximately round in cross section, not under 0.20 inch nor over 0.74 inch in diameter. See headnote 3(f) to pt. 2B, schedule 6 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States.

per minute because stainless steel work hardens rapidly. 1/ This rapid work hardening precludes a high-speed drawing operation (10,000 to 12,000 feet per minute) such as can be attained in drawing certain low-carbon steel wire. The machinery used to draw stainless steel is similar to the machinery used to draw carbon steel. However, the motors and drive mechanisms are not designed to run at the higher speeds and must be changed before other steels or nonferrous wire can be drawn on the stainless-steel-wire-drawing equipment. Thus, optimum efficiency could not be expected if a wire-drawer attempted to use the same basic facility to draw stainless steel and carbon steel wire.

Following the final drawing operation, many types of wire are cleaned or burnished to provide special surface conditions or appearance. In addition, certain further processing operations require the application of metallic or nonmetallic coatings, such as lead, copper, or lime, to the wire. The coating serves as a solid lubricant in subsequent processing operations. Another, less common, treatment is the straightening and cutting to length of stainless steel round wire prior to shipment.

The uses of stainless steel round wire are innummerable, with significant quantities being consumed in the production of fasteners and other cold-headed products, 2/ springs, strand, rope, welding wire, and woven or knitted products. Because of its appearance, hardness, smoothness, noncorrosiveness, and resistance to elevated temperatures, stainless steel round wire is required, or is preferred to other base-metal wires, for particular end-use applications.

U.S. Tariff Treatment

Stainless steel round wire, which is the subject of this inquiry, is classified under item 609.45 of the Tariff Schedules of the United States (TSUS), which provides for round wire of alloy iron or steel. The present rates of duty for imports under item 609.45 are 10.5 percent ad valorem (rate col. 1) 3/ and 33 percent ad valorem (rate col. 2) 4/ plus additional duties if the imports contain certain quantities of specified elements. 5/ The column 1 rate has been in effect since January 1, 1972. Stainless steel round

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1/ "Work harden" refers to the deforming of a metal so that substantial increases in the metal's strength and hardness occur.

2/ Cold-headed refers to a mechanical process in which lengths of wire are deformed by impact to produce a finished or semifinished product such as a nail, bolt, or screw.

3/ The col. 1 rates of duty apply to imports from countries that are entitled to most-favored-nation treatment.

4/ The col. 2 rates of duty apply to imports from all Communist-dominated countries (except Poland, Hungary, Romania, and Yugoslavia).

5/ See headnote 4 to pt. 2B of schedule 6 of the TSUS.

wire is not currently eligible for duty-free treatment under the Generalized System of Preferences.

On April 21, 1978, the Treasury Department announced trigger prices on six types of stainless steel round wire. Treasury's announcement and the six trigger prices are shown in appendix E. On July 21, 1978, Treasury announced that trigger prices on stainless steel round wire for the fourth quarter of 1978 would be increased by 4.83 percent.

Nature and Extent of Alleged Sales at Less Than Fair Value

The petition filed with the Department of the Treasury on July 14, 1978, alleged that stainless steel round wire imported from Japan was being sold in the United States at LTFV margins of as much as 65 percent. Treasury has not verified this allegation of LTFV sales.

The Domestic Industry

In the United States, stainless steel round wire is produced by three relatively distinct types of firms--the integrated steel producers, the independent wire drawers, and end-product manufacturers. The integrated steel producer draws wire from wire rods produced within the firm. The independent wire drawer makes wire from wire rods (or redraw wire) purchased from the integrated steel producers, foreign wire sources, or other independent wire drawers. These two types of producers make virtually all the domestic wire sold in the open market. The third type is the end-product manufacturer, which produces wire only for use within the firm. Little, if any, of the wire produced by this type of firm is sold in the open market.

Domestic producers specialize in both size range of wire drawn and type of customer served. For example, one integrated producer specializes in the production of wire suitable for making springs; another specializes in wire suitable for making cold-headed products. Most of the integrated firms concentrate on the production of wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter. The smaller independents frequently only produce wire less than 0.060 inch in diameter. The end-product manufacturers draw only wire of types suitable for use in manufacturing their end products.

The number of domestic firms that produce stainless steel round wire for the open market has been declining over the last several years among both integrated and independent producers. However, the number of domestic end-product manufacturers producing wire for their own use has increased.

The following tabulation lists the number and types of domestic wire producers and their shares of total production in 1974:

Type of firm	Number of firms	Percent of total production
Total	58	100
Producers for the open market	28	84
Integrated steel mills	9	60
Independent wire drawers	19	24
End-product manufacturers	30	16

The nine integrated steel producers accounted for approximately 71 percent of the quantity of domestic open-market shipments in 1974; the 19 independent producers supplied the remainder. Combined shipments of these two types of producers averaged 84 percent of the total estimated production of stainless steel round wire by all domestic producers. The remaining 16 percent was accounted for by end-product manufacturers. Stainless steel round wire producers are situated throughout the United States, but are concentrated in the Northeastern States.

Channels of Distribution

U.S. producers

Two principal channels of distribution, direct sales to end users and sales to distributors/service centers, are employed by domestic producers in marketing stainless steel round wire. The method most widely used by both integrated and independent wire drawers is direct sales to end users. 1/ Integrated mills, however, tend to accept only the larger orders owing to the high costs involved in handling small orders and in drawing a partial coil of wire rod. Integrated producers generally direct small buyers to the independent wire drawers or to distributors/service centers.

The second important channel, sales to distributors/service centers, is used principally by integrated producers. Distributors/service centers, situated in various market areas, inventory many grades and sizes of stainless steel round wire and can offer timely delivery and other specialized services needed by the small buyers.

1/ The independent wire drawers sell their product primarily to end users.

The percentage distribution of producers' shipments of stainless steel round wire by type of customer in 1975, the most recent year for which data are available, is shown below:

Type of customer	Percent of total
End users	73.4
Steel service centers and distributors	20.6
Wire drawers	5.8
Others	.2
Total	100.0

Importers

Numerous trading companies, domestic wire drawers, and end-product manufacturers import stainless steel round wire. These firms are scattered throughout the country, with the majority on the east coast. Some of the large firms, especially the Japanese trading companies, are situated on both coasts, and the Midwest.

Importers distribute stainless steel round wire through the same channels used by domestic producers. The bulk of the imported product is sold directly to end users, and the remainder, chiefly to distributors. The percentage distribution of importers' shipments of stainless steel round wire by type of customer in 1975 are shown in the following tabulation:

Type of customer	Percent of total
End users	59.0
Steel service centers and distributors	32.2
Wire drawers	7.6
Others	1.2
Total	100.0

U.S. Consumption, Producers' Shipments, and Capacity Utilization

Total apparent U.S. consumption of stainless steel round wire during 1972-77 peaked in 1974, declined by about 47 percent in 1975, and then recovered in 1976 and 1977. Data for January-June 1978 indicate that consumption for the full year will reach 244 million pounds, a level about 2 percent lower than that reported in the peak year of 1974, as shown in the following table.

Stainless steel round wire: Apparent U.S. consumption and open-market consumption, by specified sizes, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

(In thousands of pounds)

Period	Apparent consumption	Apparent open-market consumption		
		Wire under 0.060 inch in diameter	Wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter	Total
1972	166,510	21,351	130,617	151,968
1973	224,211	26,545	166,716	193,261
1974	248,416	30,098	177,554	207,653
1975	132,633	19,011	94,635	113,646
1976	176,562	28,888	122,674	151,562
1977	214,841	34,403	149,438	183,841
Jan.-June				
1977	107,634	18,186	74,448	92,634
1978	122,066	18,930	90,136	109,066

Source: Tables 1, 2, and 3.

U.S. open-market consumption also recovered from the low 1975 level. Data for January-June 1978 indicate that open-market consumption for the full year will reach a record 218 million pounds, about 5 percent higher than the peak in 1974.

U.S. producers' open-market shipments in January-June 1978 amounted to 77 million pounds, or 154 million pounds if annualized, about 3 percent less than peak shipments in 1974. The following table shows such shipments for the period under review.

Stainless steel round wire: U.S. open-market shipments, by specified sizes, 1972-1977, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

(In thousands of pounds)

Period	Wire under 0.060 inch in diameter	Wire 0.060 inch and more in diameter	Total
1972	13,065	108,078	121,143
1973	15,679	139,395	155,074
1974	16,418	141,705	158,123
1975	9,464	71,179	80,643
1976	1/ 16,000	1/ 99,000	1/ 115,000
1977	1/ 18,000	1/ 111,000	1/ 129,000
Jan.-June			
1977	1/ 9,000	1/ 56,000	1/ 65,000
1978	1/ 11,000	1/ 66,000	1/ 77,000

1/ Partially estimated.

Source: Tables 1, 2, and 3.

Data on capacity utilization were obtained from questionnaires returned by 10 large U.S. producers of stainless steel round wire. These firms reported, as shown in the tabulation below, that capacity utilization in January-June 1978 reached the highest level since 1974:

	Capacity utilization (percent)
1974	94
1975	40
1976	70
1977	74
Jan.-June--	
1977	78
1978	85

U.S. Imports

U.S. imports from all sources

As shown in the following table and in table 4, total U.S. imports of stainless steel round wire resumed their upward trend in 1976 after a 32-percent decrease in 1975. Annualized January-June 1978 data indicate that a new record level of about 69 million pounds will be set in 1978.

Stainless steel round wire: U.S. imports for consumption, by specified sizes, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

(In thousands of pounds)

Period	Wire under 0.060 inch in diameter	Wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter	Total
1972	9,024	24,531	33,555
1973	11,773	29,775	41,548
1974	14,938	39,251	54,190
1975	10,581	26,250	36,831
1976	13,612	25,845	39,457
1977	17,189	40,795	57,984
Jan.-June--			
1977	9,558	19,562	29,120
1978	8,570	26,055	34,625

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

The ratio of imports of wire under 0.060 inch to total imports of stainless steel round wire declined from an average of 30 percent during 1972-77 to 25 percent in January-June 1978. The decline in this ratio is reportedly due to the increasing importation of large-diameter redraw wire for use by end-product manufacturers and independent wire drawers in lieu of wire rod, which is subject to import restraints.

The unit value of total imports showed relatively no change in the last 2-1/2 years, averaging $1.01 per pound in 1976, $1.00 per pound in 1977, and $1.01 per pound in January-June 1978.

Total imports of stainless steel round wire, by principal sources, are shown in table 5. Japan has been the largest single source of U.S. imports for the last 6-1/2 years. Imports from Japan accounted for 58 percent of total imports during 1972-77, but only 49 percent in January-June 1978. Other large sources of U.S. imports are Sweden, France, Belgium, West Germany, and Canada. Although not shown separately in the table, the share of total imports accounted for by Spain and Brazil increased from 10 percent in 1977 to 13 percent in January-June 1978.

U.S. imports from Japan

U.S. imports of stainless steel round wire from Japan were at a record high level in 1977, when they increased by 42 percent over imports from that source in 1976, as shown in the following table. The increase amounted to 41 percent for wire under 0.060 inch in diameter and 42 percent for wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter. In January-June 1978, imports from Japan were 2 percent greater than the quantity entered in the corresponding period of 1977. The increase was limited to wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter; imports in the smaller diameter category declined by 17 percent during this period.

Stainless steel round wire: U.S. imports for consumption from Japan, by specified sizes, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

(In thousands of pounds)

Period	Wire under 0.060 inch in diameter	Wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter	Total
1972	4,694	16,098	20,792
1973	3,666	18,635	22,302
1974	6,966	22,581	29,547
1975	5,049	15,725	20,774
1976	6,737	17,008	23,745
1977	9,485	24,229	33,714
Jan.-June--			
1977	5,413	11,291	16,704
1978	4,483	12,633	17,115

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Total imports as a share of U.S. consumption

As shown in the following table, the ratio of total imports of stainless steel round wire to total consumption and to open-market consumption fluctuated without any apparent trend during 1972-77 and January-June 1978.

Stainless steel round wire: Ratios of imports to total consumption and open-market consumption, by specified sizes, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

(In percent)

Period	Ratio of imports to total consumption	Ratio of imports to open-market consumption		
		Wire under 0.060 inch in diameter	Wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter	Total
1972	20.2	42.3	18.8	22.1
1973	18.5	44.4	17.9	21.5
1974	21.8	49.6	22.1	26.1
1975	27.8	55.7	27.7	32.4
1976	22.3	47.1	21.1	26.0
1977	27.0	50.0	27.3	31.5
Jan.-June--				
1977	27.1	52.6	26.3	31.4
1978	28.4	45.3	28.9	31.7

Source: Tables 1, 2, 3, and 6.

Imports from Japan as a share of U.S. consumption

As shown in the following table, the ratios of imports of stainless steel round wire from Japan to total U.S. consumption and open-market consumption during 1972-77 and January-June 1978 were at their lowest levels in 1973 and at their highest levels in 1975 and 1977.

Stainless steel round wire: Ratios of imports from Japan to total consumption and open-market consumption, by specified sizes, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

(In percent)

Period	Ratio of imports from Japan to total consumption	Ratio of imports from Japan to open-market consumption		
		Wire under 0.060 inch in diameter	Wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter	Total
1972	12.5	22.0	12.3	13.7
1973	9.9	13.8	11.2	11.5
1974	11.9	23.1	12.7	14.2
1975	15.7	26.6	16.6	18.3
1976	13.4	23.3	13.9	15.7
1977	15.7	27.6	16.2	18.3
Jan.-June--				
1977	15.5	29.8	15.2	18.0
1978	14.0	23.7	14.0	15.7

Source: Tables 1, 2, 3, and 6.

U.S. Exports

U.S. exports by principal markets are shown in table 7. U.S. exports were small, averaging about 3.4 million pounds annually (1 percent of total U.S. production), during 1972-77.

U.S. Producers' Employment and Man-hours Worked

Incomplete data on U.S. producers' employment and man-hours worked indicate that both increased during the last 2-1/2 years (table 8). However, employment and man-hours worked in January-June 1978 can be annualized to levels which are about 10 percent and 8 percent, respectively, below the peak levels set in 1974.

Profit-and-Loss Experience of U.S. Producers

The profit-and-loss experience of U.S. producers is shown in table 9. The net operating profit for both overall establishment operations and stainless steel round wire operations peaked in 1974. In that year, the ratio of net operating profit to sales for stainless steel round wire operations was 12 percent. This ratio declined to 8 percent in 1975 and remained relatively unchanged through January-June 1978. * * * of the net operating profit earned during 1976-77 and January-June 1978 by the nine companies reporting financial data to the Commission in connection with this inquiry. Of the remaining eight firms, two firms in 1976, four firms in 1977, and four firms in January-June 1978 were marginally profitable. Six firms experienced losses in 1976, while
only four firms sustained losses in 1977 and January-June 1978.

U.S. Producers' and Importers' Prices

U.S. producers' and importers' lowest net selling prices for two different types of stainless steel round wire are shown in tables 10 and 11. Both U.S. producers' and importers' prices during January 1976-June 1978 moved within a narrow range for both types of wire. The U.S. producers' average lowest net selling prices for both items declined slightly in January-June 1978. The prices of both items imported from Japan increased in the same period. The average difference between the Japanese selling prices and the U.S. producers' selling prices ranged between 41 percent and 9 percent during the period January 1976-June 1978.

Lost Sales

The Commission sent questionnaires to U.S. producers seeking evidence of lost sales. For the period January-June 1978, lost sales of 2.2 million pounds (4 percent of estimated domestic production in that period) were reported. These alleged lost sales were divided among 24 different purchasing

[redacted]

firms. For 12 of these firms it was confirmed that a lost sale had occurred as a result of the firm's purchasing stainless steel round wire imported from Japan; for 4 firms it was determined that the alleged lost sales had actually been lost to imports from countries other than Japan. Alleged lost sales at eight accounts could not be verified.

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APPENDIX A

STATISTICAL TABLES

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Table 1.--Stainless steel round wire: U.S. production, producers' open-market shipments, exports of domestic merchandise, imports, total and from Japan, and apparent consumption, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Period	Production	Producers' open-market shipments	Exports	Imports		Apparent consumption		Ratio of total imports to--		Ratio of imports from Japan to--	
				Total	From Japan	Total	Open-market	Total consumption	Open-market consumption	Total consumption	Open-market consumption
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1972	135,685	121,143	2,730	33,555	20,792	166,510	151,968	20.2	22.1	12.5	13.7
1973	186,024	155,074	3,361	41,548	22,302	224,211	193,261	18.5	21.5	9.9	11.5
1974	198,886	158,123	4,660	54,190	29,547	248,416	207,653	21.8	26.1	11.9	14.2
1975	99,630	80,643	3,828	36,831	20,774	132,633	113,646	27.8	32.4	15.7	18.3
1976	1/140,000	1/ 115,000	2,895	39,457	23,745	176,562	151,562	22.3	26.0	13.4	15.7
1977	1/160,000	1/ 129,000	3,143	57,984	33,714	214,841	183,841	27.0	31.5	15.7	18.3
January-June --											
1977	1/ 80,000	1/ 65,000	1,486	29,120	16,704	107,634	92,634	27.1	31.4	15.5	18.0
1978	1/ 90,000	1/ 77,000	2,559	34,625	17,115	122,066	109,066	28.4	31.7	14.0	15.7

1/ Partially estimated.

Source: U.S. production, derived from raw-material consumption; producers' shipments, compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission; exports and imports, compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on Investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

Table 2.--Stainless steel round wire under 0.060 inch in diameter: U.S. producers' open-market shipments, exports of domestic merchandise, imports, total and from Japan, and apparent open-market consumption, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Period	Producers open-market shipments	Exports	Imports		Apparent open-market consumption	Ratio of imports to open-market consumption	Ratio of imports from Japan to open-market consumption
			Total	From Japan			
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent
1972	13,065	738	9,024	4,694	21,351	42.3	22.0
1973	15,679	907	11,773	3,666	26,545	44.4	13.8
1974	16,418	1,258	14,938	6,966	30,098	49.6	23.1
1975	9,464	1,034	10,581	5,049	19,011	55.7	26.6
1976	1/ 16,000	724	13,612	6,737	28,888	47.1	23.3
1977	1/ 18,000	786	17,189	9,485	34,403	50.0	27.6
January-June							
1977	1/ 9,000	372	9,558	5,413	18,186	52.6	29.8
1978	1/ 11,000	640	8,570	4,483	18,930	45.3	23.7

1/ Partially estimated.

Source: U.S. producers' shipments, compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission; exports of wire under 0.060 inch in diameter, based on the ratio of domestic open-market shipments of such wire to total open-market shipments; imports, compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on Investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

Table 3.--Stainless steel round wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter: U.S. producers' open-market shipments, exports of domestic merchandise, imports, total and from Japan, and apparent open-market consumption, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Period	Producers' open-market shipments	Exports	Imports		Apparent open-market consumption	Ratio of imports to open-market consumption	Ratio of imports from Japan to open-market consumption
			Total	From Japan			
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent
1972	108,078	1,992	24,531	16,098	130,617	18.8	12.3
1973	139,395	2,454	29,775	18,635	166,716	17.9	11.2
1974	141,705	3,402	39,251	22,581	177,554	22.1	12.7
1975	71,179	2,794	26,250	15,725	94,635	27.7	16.6
1976	1/ 99,000	2,171	25,845	17,008	122,674	21.1	13.9
1977	1/111,000	2,357	40,795	24,229	149,438	27.3	16.2
January-June							
1977	1/ 56,000	1,114	19,562	11,291	74,448	26.3	15.2
1978	1/ 66,000	1,919	26,055	12,633	90,136	28.9	14.0

1/ Partially estimated.

Source: U.S. producers' shipments, compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission; exports of wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter, based on the ratio of domestic open-market shipments of such wire to total open-market shipments; imports, compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on Investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

Table 4.--Stainless steel round wire: U.S. imports for consumption, by specified sizes and by TSUSA items, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Period	Wire under 0.060 inch in diameter (item 609.4510)	Wire 0.060 inch or more in diameter (item 609.4540)	Total or average
	Quantity (1,000 pounds)		
1972	9,024	24,531	33,555
1973	11,773	29,775	41,548
1974	14,938	39,251	54,190
1975	10,581	26,250	36,831
1976	13,612	25,845	39,457
1977	17,189	40,795	57,984
January-June--			
1977	9,558	19,562	29,120
1978	8,570	26,055	34,625
	Value (1,000 dollars)		
1972	7,637	12,253	19,890
1973	11,716	16,392	28,108
1974	18,223	28,286	46,509
1975	15,497	23,937	39,434
1976	18,962	20,697	39,659
1977	23,508	34,397	57,905
January-June--			
1977	13,269	16,524	29,793
1978	11,895	23,030	34,925
	Unit value (per pound)		
1972	$0.85	$0.50	$0.59
1973	1.00	.55	.68
1974	1.22	.72	.86
1975	1.46	.91	1.07
1976	1.39	.80	1.01
1977	1.37	.84	1.00
January-June--			
1977	1.39	.84	1.02
1978	1.39	.88	1.01

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Note.--Because of rounding, figures may not add to the totals shown.

Table 5.--Stainless steel round wire: U.S. imports for consumption, by principal sources, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Source	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	January-June-- 1977	January-June-- 1978
	Quantity (1,000 pounds)							
Japan	20,792	22,302	29,547	20,774	23,745	33,714	16,704	17,115
Sweden	6,599	8,819	9,824	7,919	8,782	8,158	4,416	5,647
France	3,976	5,974	6,760	2,901	2,367	4,730	2,579	3,659
Belgium	1,008	1,786	1,491	619	1,636	1,439	859	1,055
Canada	169	428	890	300	392	1,320	703	547
West Germany	201	389	1,764	1,832	648	3,142	1,222	1,517
All other	810	1,850	3,914	2,486	1,887	5,480	2,637	5,085
Total	33,555	41,548	54,190	36,831	39,457	57,983	29,120	34,625
	Value (1,000 dollars)							
Japan	11,018	13,100	23,584	20,090	18,956	30,874	15,444	16,068
Sweden	5,578	8,458	11,442	11,866	13,520	12,426	7,227	8,097
France	1,436	2,778	3,994	2,467	1,636	3,704	1,897	2,962
Belgium	965	1,783	2,125	940	2,229	2,261	1,309	1,528
Canada	201	514	1,389	621	984	1,990	906	916
West Germany	254	322	1,200	1,501	977	2,680	1,170	1,377
All other	437	1,154	2,776	1,949	1,357	3,969	1,840	3,977
Total	19,889	28,109	46,510	39,434	39,659	57,904	29,793	34,925
	Unit value (per pound)							
Japan	$0.53	$0.59	$0.80	$0.97	$0.80	$0.92	$0.92	$0.94
Sweden	.85	.96	1.16	1.50	1.54	1.52	1.64	1.43
France	.36	.47	.59	.85	.69	.78	.74	.81
Belgium	.96	1.00	1.43	1.52	1.36	1.57	1.52	1.45
Canada	1.19	1.20	1.56	2.07	2.51	1.51	1.29	1.67
West Germany	1.26	.83	.68	.82	1.51	.85	.96	.91
All other	.54	.62	.71	.78	.72	.72	.70	.78
Average	.59	.68	.86	1.07	1.01	1.00	1.02	1.01

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 6.--Stainless steel round wire: U.S. production, total and for the open market, and imports, total and from Japan, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Period	Production		Imports		Ratio of total imports to--		Ratio of imports from Japan to--	
	Total	Open-market 1/	Total	From Japan	Total production	Open-market production	Total production	Open-market production
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
1972	135,685	129,451	33,555	20,792	24.7	25.9	15.3	16.1
1973	186,024	156,822	41,548	22,302	22.3	26.5	12.0	14.2
1974	198,886	166,055	54,190	29,547	27.2	32.6	14.9	17.8
1975	99,630	79,839	36,831	20,774	37.0	46.1	20.9	26.0
1976	2/140,000	2/ 115,000	39,457	23,745	28.2	34.3	17.0	20.6
1977	2/160,000	2/ 130,000	57,984	33,714	36.2	44.6	21.1	25.9
January-June--								
1977	2/ 80,000	2/ 65,000	29,120	16,704	36.4	44.8	20.9	25.7
1978	2/ 90,000	2/ 80,000	34,625	17,115	38.5	44.5	19.0	21.4

1/ Includes redraw production, producer-company exports, and effects of inventory changes.
2/ Partially estimated.

Source: U.S. production, derived from raw-material consumption; production for the open-market, derived from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission by domestic wire producers; imports, compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on Investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

Table 7.--Stainless steel wire: 1/ U.S. exports of domestic merchandise, by principal markets, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Market	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	January-June-- 1977	January-June-- 1978
	Quantity (1,000 pounds)							
Canada	842	1,169	1,651	1,008	827	1,282	540	97
West Germany	177	290	417	200	140	90	25	2/
Mexico	55	237	500	111	169	332	168	61
France	126	182	165	140	54	101	75	1
United Kingdom	434	592	208	316	148	99	73	22
Ireland	140	97	285	291	256	99	87	0
Italy	42	71	96	326	163	128	56	12
All other	914	723	1,338	1,436	1,138	1,012	462	2,366
Total	2,730	3,361	4,660	3,828	2,895	3,143	1,486	2,559
	Value (1,000 dollars)							
Canada	724	990	1,794	1,347	996	1,389	652	223
West Germany	272	518	726	379	348	322	148	2
Mexico	71	295	609	176	229	447	162	47
France	288	339	367	380	257	285	165	10
United Kingdom	298	430	298	470	342	213	158	43
Ireland	142	117	227	358	274	146	107	-
Italy	106	180	199	268	257	214	76	13
All other	1,008	1,023	1,752	1,888	1,900	1,746	949	1,990
Total	2,909	3,892	5,972	5,266	4,603	4,762	2,417	2,328
	Unit value (per pound)							
Canada	$0.86	$0.85	$1.09	$1.34	$1.20	$1.08	$1.21	$2.30
West Germany	1.54	1.79	1.74	1.90	2.49	3.58	5.92	-
Mexico	1.29	1.24	1.22	1.59	1.36	1.35	.96	.77
France	2.29	1.86	2.22	2.71	4.76	2.82	2.20	10.00
United Kingdom	.69	.73	1.43	1.49	2.31	2.15	2.16	1.95
Ireland	1.01	1.21	.80	1.23	1.07	1.47	1.23	-
Italy	2.52	2.54	2.07	.82	1.58	1.67	1.36	1.08
All other	1.10	1.41	1.31	1.31	1.67	1.73	2.05	.84
Total	1.07	1.16	1.28	1.38	1.59	1.51	1.63	.91

1/ Includes both round and flat stainless steel wire.
2/ Less then 500 pounds.

Source: Compiled from official statistics of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Table 8.--Average number of employees, total and production and related workers, producing stainless steel round wire in U.S. establishments and man-hours worked by the latter, 1973-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978

Item	1973	1974	1975	1976	1977	January-June--	
						1977	1978
Average number of employees:							
All persons	29,702	30,918	26,082	1/ 27,000	1/28,000	1/28,000	1/ 28,500
Production and related workers engaged in the production of--							
All products	22,955	24,045	19,499	1/ 21,000	1/22,000	1/22,000	1/ 22,500
Stainless steel wire	2,563	2,819	1,619	1/ 1,850	1/ 1,950	1/ 1,900	1/ 2,050
Man-hours worked by production and related workers producing--							
All products----------1,000 man-hours--	48,857	51,900	37,853	1/ 44,730	1/46,860	1/23,430	1/ 23,960
Stainless steel wire----------do--------	5,480	6,026	3,144	1/ 4,500	1/ 5,100	1/ 2,550	1/ 2,700

1/ Partially estimated.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

Table 9.--Profit-and-loss experience of U.S. producers of stainless steel round wire on their overall establishment operations and their operations on stainless steel wire, 1972-77, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978 1/

Period	Net sales	Cost of goods sold	Gross profit	General, selling, and administrative expenses	Net operating profit	Ratio of net operating profit to net sales
Overall establishment operations	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	1,000 dollars	Percent
1972	778,513	650,776	127,737	78,000	49,737	6.4
1973	1,057,090	880,854	176,236	93,161	83,075	7.9
1974	1,362,373	1,110,652	251,721	105,958	145,763	10.7
1975	1,068,744	880,945	187,799	99,258	88,541	8.3
1976	614,076	495,160	118,916	77,038	41,878	6.8
1977	774,678	617,609	157,069	89,946	67,123	8.7
Jan.-June—						
1977	385,329	305,317	80,012	44,774	35,238	9.1
1978	452,724	362,886	89,838	49,178	40,660	9.0
Operations on stainless steel round wire						
1972	88,332	74,485	13,847	13,085	762	.9
1973	114,710	91,643	23,067	16,434	6,633	5.8
1974	159,453	121,679	37,774	18,579	19,195	12.0
1975	98,549	75,681	22,868	14,787	8,081	8.2
1976	100,608	79,207	21,401	13,388	8,013	8.0
1977	125,997	100,167	25,830	15,913	9,917	7.9
Jan.-June—						
1977	63,602	50,310	13,292	8,139	5,153	8.1
1978	67,328	54,038	13,290	7,944	5,346	7.9

1/ Based on data supplied by 12 companies for 1972-75 and 9 companies for 1976, 1977, January-June 1977, and January-June 1978.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

Table 10.--Ranges and arithmetic averages of lowest net selling prices received by U.S. producers and importers from sales of stainless steel wire, type 304, 0.030-0.032-inch diameter, annealed, nonmetallic coating, to distributors or end users, 1972-75 and, by quarters, January 1976-June 1978

Period	Domestic price		Japanese import price		Amount by which Japanese import price is lower than domestic price
	Range	Arithmetic average	Range	Arithmetic average	
					Percent
1972	$0.93-1.41	$1.14	1/	1/	1/
1973	.93-1.75	1.40	1/	1/	1/
1974	1.54-3.83	2.01	1/	1/	1/
1975	1.45-2.33	1.93	1/	1/	1/
1976:					
Jan.-Mar	1.97-2.23	2.10	$1.30	$1.30	38
Apr.-June	1.86-2.23	2.01	1.30	1.30	35
July-Sept	1.66-2.33	1.94	$1.15-1.26	1.21	38
Oct.-Dec	1.86-2.33	2.03	1.15-1.26	1.21	40
1977:					
Jan.-Mar	1.58-2.33	1.95	1.18-1.30	1.25	36
Apr.-June	1.76-2.33	1.97	1.18-1.23	1.21	39
July-Sept	1.76-2.47	2.02	1.17-1.24	1.20	41
Oct.-Dec	1.76-2.47	1.99	1.15-1.24	1.19	40
1978:					
Jan.-Mar	1.58-2.47	1.87	1.17-1.26	1.21	35
Apr.-June	1.64-2.47	1.96	1.23-1.26	1.23	37

1/ Not available.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

Table 11.--Ranges and arithmetic averages of lowest net selling prices received by U.S. producers and importers from sales of stainless steel wire, type 302, 0.010-inch diameter, full-hard, to distributors or end users, 1972-75 and, by quarters, January 1976-June 1978

Period	Domestic price		Japanese import price:		Amount by which Japanese import price is lower than domestic price
	Range	Arithmetic average	Range	Arithmetic average	
					Percent
1972	$1.47-2.33	$1.74	1/	1/	1/
1973	1.50-2.33	1.83	1/	1/	1/
1974	1.96-3.06	2.52	1/	1/	1/
1975	2.35-3.46	2.83	1/	1/	1/
1976:					
Jan.-Mar	2.33-2.91	2.64	$1.94	$1.94	27
Apr.-June	1.91-2.83	2.38	1.94	1.94	18
July-Sept	2.30-2.98	2.59	$1.85-1.94	1.90	27
Oct.-Dec	1.86-2.98	2.41	1.94	1.94	20
1977:					
Jan.-Mar	2.08-2.98	2.52	1.94	1.94	23
Apr.-June	2.04-2.98	2.38	2.06	1.94	13
July-Sept	2.03-3.16	2.46	2.06	2.06	16
Oct.-Dec	2.04-3.16	2.47	2.06	2.06	17
1978:					
Jan.-Mar	2.04-3.16	2.43	2.06	2.06	15
Apr.-June	2.08-3.16	2.38	2.06-2.25	2.16	9

1/ Not available.

Source: Compiled from data submitted in response to questionnaires of the U.S. International Trade Commission. Data for 1972-75, compiled from U.S. International Trade Commission report on investigation No. TA-201-13, USITC Publication 779.

APPENDIX B

LETTER FROM MR. HENRY C. STOCKELL, JR., ACTING GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TREASURY, TO THE CHAIRMAN, UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION, DATED JULY 20, 1978

THE GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE TREASURY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

'78 JUL 26 AM 11:

20 JUL 1978

Dear Mr. Chairman:

U.S. INTL. TRADE COMMISSION

In accordance with section 201(c) of the Antidumping Act of 1921, as amended, an antidumping investigation is being initiated with respect to stainless steel round wire from Japan. Pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the Act, you are hereby advised that the information developed during our preliminary investigation has led us to the conclusion that there is substantial doubt that an industry in the United States is being, or is likely to be, injured by reason of the importation of this merchandise into the United States.

During a period of rising domestic consumption from 1975 through 1977, imports, and particularly those from Japan, increased as a share of consumption. At the same time capacity utilization rates, profit and employment levels in the domestic industry declined significantly. However, information on domestic prices and costs and on LTFV margins, with reference to this merchandise, indicates that elimination of LTFV margins would not substantially eliminate the margin by which petitioners are being undersold by the imported merchandise from Japan. Nor apparently would such price revisions result in prices for the merchandise imported from Japan equal to or exceeding the cost of production of the domestic industry for such merchandise. Moreover, domestic sales of coarse wire have nearly doubled between 1975 and 1977 and sales of fine wire are no lower in 1977 than in 1975.

Accordingly, from the available information, the Department has concluded that there is substantial doubt that an industry in the United States is being, or is likely to be, injured by reason of the alleged sales at less than fair value from Japan.

Based upon the data submitted by petitioners, there are margins of sales at less than fair value of as much as 65 percent relative to this merchandise from Japan.

For purposes of this investigation, as recommended by your Office of Nomenclature, "stainless steel round wire" means "stainless steel wire, as defined and

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provided for in item 609.45, Tariff Schedules of the United States."

Some of the enclosed data is regarded by Treasury to be of a confidential nature. It is therefore requested that the Commission consider all the enclosed information to be for the official use of the ITC only, not to be disclosed to others without prior clearance from the Treasury Department.

Sincerely yours,

Henry C. Stockell, Jr.
Acting General Counsel

The Honorable
Joseph O. Parker, Chairman
U.S. International Trade
Commission
Washington, D.C. 20436

Enclosure

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APPENDIX C

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
NOTICE OF INQUIRY AND HEARING

UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C.

[AA1921-Inq.-17]

STAINLESS STEEL ROUND WIRE FROM JAPAN

Notice of Inquiry and Hearing

The United States International Trade Commission (Commission) received advice from the Department of the Treasury (Treasury) on July 26, 1978, that, during the course of its preliminary investigation with respect to stainless steel round wire from Japan in accordance with section 201(c) of the Antidumping Act of 1921, as amended (19 U.S.C. 160(c)), Treasury had concluded from the information available to it that there is substantial doubt that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of this merchandise into the United States. Therefore, the Commission on August 1, 1978, instituted inquiry AA1921-Inq.-17, under section 201(c)(2) of that act, to determine whether there is no reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being or is likely to be injured, or is prevented from being established, by reason of the importation of such merchandise into the United States.

The Treasury advised the Commission as follows:

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Dear Mr. Chairman:

In accordance with section 201(c) of the Antidumping Act of 1921, as amended, an antidumping investigation is being initiated with respect to stainless steel round wire from Japan. Pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the Act, you are hereby advised that the information developed during our preliminary investigation has led us to the conclusion that there is substantial doubt that an industry in the United States is being, or is likely to be, injured by reason of the importation of this merchandise into the United States.

During a period of rising domestic consumption from 1975 through 1977, imports, and particularly those from Japan, increased as a share of consumption. At the same time capacity utilization rates, profit and employment levels in the domestic industry declined significantly. However, information on domestic prices and costs and on LTFV margins, with reference to this merchandise, indicates that elimination of LTFV margins would not substantially eliminate the margin by which petitioners are being undersold by the imported merchandise from Japan. Nor apparently would such price revisions result in prices for the merchandise imported from Japan equal to or exceeding the cost of production of the domestic industry for such merchandise. Moreover, domestic sales of coarse wire have nearly doubled between 1975 and 1977 and sales of fine wire are no lower in 1977 than in 1975.

Accordingly, from the available information, the Department has concluded that there is substantial doubt that an industry in the United States is being, or is likely to be, injured by reason of the alleged sales at less than fair value from Japan.

Based upon the data submitted by petitioners, there are margins of sales at less than fair value of as much as 65 percent relative to this merchandise from Japan.

For purposes of this investigation, as recommended by your Office of Nomenclature, "stainless steel round wire" means "stainless steel wire, as defined and provided for in item 609.45, Tariff Schedules of the United States."

Some of the enclosed data is regarded by Treasury to be of a confidential nature. It is therefore requested that the Commission consider all the enclosed information to be for the official use of the ITC only, not to be disclosed to others without prior clearance from the Treasury Department.

Sincerely yours,

s/ Henry C. Stockwell, Jr.
Acting General Counsel

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Hearing. A public hearing in connection with the inquiry will be held on Thursday, August 17, 1978, beginning at 10:00 a.m., e.d.t., in the Commission's Hearing Room, United States International Trade Commission Building, 701 E Street, NW., Washington, D.C. 20436. All persons shall have the right to appear in person or by counsel, to present information, and to be heard. Requests to appear at the public hearing should be received in writing in the office of the Secretary of the Commission not later than noon Monday, August 14, 1978.

Written statements. Interested parties may submit statements in writing in lieu of, and in addition to, appearance at the public hearing. A signed original and nineteen true copies of such statements should be submitted. To be assured of their being given due consideration by the Commission, such statements should be received no later than Thursday, August 17, 1978.

By order of the Commission.

Kenneth R. Mason
Secretary

Issued: August 1, 1978

APPENDIX D

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY NOTICE
OF ANTIDUMPING PROCEEDING

4810-22 APP-2-04-O:D:T SN nn

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

STAINLESS STEEL ROUND WIRE FROM JAPAN

ANTIDUMPING PROCEEDING NOTICE

AGENCY: U.S. Treasury Department

ACTION: Initiation of Antidumping Investigation

SUMMARY:

This notice is to advise the public that a petition in proper form has been received and an antidumping investigation is being initiated for the purpose of determining whether imports of stainless steel round wire from Japan are being, or are likely to be, sold at less than fair value within the meaning of the Antidumping Act, 1921, as amended. However, as there appears to be substantial doubt that imports of the subject merchandise at less than fair value are the cause of present, or likely future injury to an industry in the United States, the case is being referred to the U.S. International Trade Commission pursuant to Section 201(c)(2) of the Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

(Date of publication in the Federal Register)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Stephen Nyschot, Operations Officer, U.S. Customs Service, Office of Operations, Duty Assessment Division, Technical Branch, 1301 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20229, telephone (202) 566-5492.

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SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

On July 14, 1978, information was received in proper form pursuant to sections 153.26 and 153.27, Customs Regulations (19 CFR 153.26, 153.27), from counsel acting on behalf of various American manufacturers, indicating a possibility that stainless steel round wire from Japan is being, or is likely to be, sold at less than fair value within the meaning of the Antidumping Act, 1921, as amended (19 U.S.C. 160 et seq.). The petitioners are: Alloy Wire Manufacturing Company, Houston. Texas; Al Tech Specialty Steel Corporation, Dunkirk, New York; ARMCO Steel Corporation, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; Branford Wire Manufacturing Company, North Haven, Connecticut; Brookfield Wire Company, Inc., Brookfield, Massachusetts; Carpenter Technology Corporation, Reading, Pennsylvania; Crucible Inc., Specialty Metals Division, Syracuse, New York; Cyclops Corporation, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Harris Metals Company, Holyoke, Massachusetts; Industrial Alloys, Inc., City of Industry, California; Madison Wire Company, Buffalo, New York; Mapes Piano String Company, Elizabethton, Tennessee; Maryland Specialty Wire Company, Cockeysville, Maryland; National Standard Company, Niles, Michigan; H.K. Porter Company, Inc., Alloy Metals Wire Works, Prospect Park, Pennsylvania; Techalloy Company, Inc., Rahns, Pennsylvania; and Willing B. Wire Corporation, Beverly, New Jersey.

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For purposes of this notice, the term "stainless steel round wire" means stainless steel wire, as defined and provided for in item 609.45, Tariff Schedules of the United States.

Price information received from the petitioners tends to indicate that the prices of this merchandise sold for exportation to the United States are less than the prices in the home market. Petitioners' information also tends to indicate that home market sales have been occurring at less than the cost of production under Section 205(b) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 165(b)).

There is evidence on record concerning injury to, or the likelihood of injury to, or prevention of establishment of an industry in the United States. This evidence also indicates, however, that were alleged less than fair value sales of the subject merchandise eliminated, substantial margins of underselling of the domestic industry would still remain. Moreover, domestic sales of coarse wire have nearly doubled between 1975 and 1977 and sales of fine wire are no lower in 1977 than in 1975. On the basis of such evidence it has been concluded that there is a substantial doubt of injury, or likelihood of injury, to an industry in the United States by virtue of such imports from Japan. Accordingly, the U.S. International

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Trade Commission is being advised of such doubt pursuant to section 201(c)(2) of the Act (19 U.S.C. 160(c)(2)).

Having conducted a summary investigation as required by section 153.29 of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 153.29) and having determined as a result thereof that there are grounds for so doing, the United States Customs Service is instituting an inquiry to verify the information submitted and to obtain the facts necessary to reach a determination as to the fact or likelihood of sales at less than fair value. Should the International Trade Commission, within 30 days of receipt of the information cited in the preceding paragraph, advise the Secretary that there is no reasonable indication that an industry in the United States is being, or is likely to be, injured, or is prevented from being established by reason of the importation of such merchandise into the United States, the Department will publish promptly in the Federal Register a notice terminating the investigation. Otherwise, the investigation will continue to conclusion.

This notice is published pursuant to section 153.30 of the Customs Regulations (19 CFR 153.30).

20 JUL 1978

Acting General Counsel of the Treasury
Henry C. Stockell, Jr.

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APPENDIX E

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY ANNOUNCEMENT OF ADDITIONAL TRIGGER BASE PRICES

Department of the TREASURY NEWS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220 TELEPHONE 566-2041

Treasury Media Contact: Robert Nipp
202/566-5328
Customs Media Contact: Alan Bernstein
202/566-5286

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 21, 1978

TREASURY ANNOUNCES ADDITIONAL TRIGGER BASE PRICES AND "EXTRAS" FOR IMPORTED STEEL MILL PRODUCTS

The Treasury Department today announced additional trigger base prices and "extras" for imported steel mill products.

The base prices and "extras" announced today cover a major portion of imports of steel wire products considered steel mill products (flat and shaped wire and barbed wire), cold finished bars and certain rails. Other products made of steel alloys are also included. Trigger prices on wire nails will be announced later because of the need to obtain additional information on such products from the Japanese government. All prices are per metric ton. A limited exemption is applied to shipments covered by contracts with fixed price terms provided the contracts were concluded before the publication date of this notice.

For questions on Trigger Pricing, contact U.S. Customs at (202) 566-8235, 8236, 8651, or 5286. If those lines are busy, call (202) 566-8121 and leave your phone number. Your call will be returned.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

NOTICE

Trigger Base Prices and "Extras"
for Imported Steel Mill Products

I am hereby announcing additional trigger base prices and "extras" for imported steel mill products. These trigger prices pertain to certain steel wire, barbed wire and cold finished bars, rails and alloys. The Treasury Department will use these trigger prices to monitor imports of basic steel mill products in connection with the "trigger price mechanism." A description of the trigger price mechanism may be found in the "Background" to the final rulemaking which amended regulations to require the filing of a Special Summary Steel Invoice (SSSI) with all entries of imported steel mill products (43 F.R. 6065).

These base prices and extras are based upon evidence made available to the Treasury Department by the Japanese Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI), as well as other information available to the Department. The methodology used in developing these trigger prices is essentially the same as that described in the Federal Register Notice of January 9, 1978 (43 F.R. 1464). However, these trigger prices are based upon the production costs of the smaller Japanese fabricating mills, rather than the six integrated Japanese steel mills.

The trigger prices being announced today will be used by the Customs Service to collect information at the time of entry on all shipments of the products covered which are exported after the date of publication of this notice. However, the following rules will be applied to entries of these products covered by contracts with fixed price terms concluded before the publication date of this notice:

1. Contracts with fixed price terms between unrelated parties: If the importer documents at or before the time of entry that the shipment is being imported under such a contract with an unrelated party, the entry will not trigger an investigation even if the sales price is below the trigger price, provided that entry is made on or before June 30, 1978. However, failure to initiate an investigation will not diminish the right of affected interested persons to file a complaint with respect to such imports under the established procedures for antidumping cases.

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2. Contracts between related parties: If the importer documents at the time of entry that the shipment is being imported under a contract with a related party and the shipment is to be resold to an unrelated purchaser in the United States under a contract with fixed price terms concluded before the publication date of this notice, the entry will not trigger an investigation even if the sales price is below the trigger price, provided that delivery is made on or before June 30, 1978.

While these sales will not as a rule trigger a self-initiated antidumping investigation, information concerning such sales will be kept as a part of the information in the monitoring system and will be available in the event that an antidumping petition is filed with respect to such products sold by that producer or the Treasury Department decides to self-initiate an antidumping investigation of such products based upon subsequent sales.

W. Michael Blumenthal
Secretary of the Treasury

Dated: April 21, 1978

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Bright Annealed Cold Drawn Stainless Steel Wire, AISI 304, 0.080"

Category AISI 16

Tariff Schedule Number (s) 609.4540 10 1/2% + additional duties (see Headnote 4, T.S.U.S)

Base Price per Metric Ton $2182

Charges to CIF	Ocean Freight	Handling	Interest
West Coast	$ 93	$3	$44
Gulf Coast	109	5	57
Atlantic Coast	109	4	57
Great Lakes	142	4	71

Insurance 1% of base price + extras + ocean freight

Extras

See "Extras" Table pg. 16-20

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SIZE EXTRAS FOR COLD DRAWN, BRIGHT ANNEALED (or ANNEALED AND PICKLED) STAINLESS STEEL WIRE

Size (Inches)	$ Extra/M.T.
0.200	-142
0.131	-79
0.080	Base
0.040	117
0.032	208
0.020	633
0.016	750
0.012	1067
0.008	1504

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Spring Hard Temper, Nickel Copper and Plastic Coat, Cold Drawn Stainless Steel Wire, AISI 302, 0.040"

Category AISI 16

Tariff Schedule Number (s) 609.4510 10 1/2% + additional duties (see Headnote 4, T.S.U.S.)

Base Price per Metric Ton $2745

Charges to CIF	Ocean Freight	Handling	Interest
West Coast	$ 93	$3	$55
Gulf Coast	109	5	72
Atlantic Coast	109	4	72
Great Lakes	142	4	89

Insurance 1% of base price + extras + ocean freight

Extras

None

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Cold Heading Quality, Copper and Molybdenum Coat, Cold Drawn Stainless Steel Wire, ASTM 493A, KM-7, 0.131"

Category AISI 16

Tariff Schedule Number (s) 609.4540 10 1/2% + additional duties (see Headnote 4, T.S.U.S.)

Base Price per Metric Ton $2353

Charges to CIF	Ocean Freight	Handling	Interest
West Coast	$ 93	$3	$47
Gulf Coast	109	5	62
Atlantic Coast	109	4	62
Great Lakes	142	4	77

Insurance 1% of base price + extras + ocean freight

Extras

None

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Cold Heading Quality, Copper and Molybdenum Coat, Cold Drawn Stainless Steel Wire, AISI 305, 0.131"

Category AISI 16

Tariff Schedule Number (s) 609.4540 10 1/2% + additional duties (see Headnote 4, T.S.U.S.)

Base Price per Metric Ton. $2416

Charges to CIF	Ocean Freight	Handling	Interest
West Coast	$ 93	$3	$48
Gulf Coast	109	5	63
Atlantic Coast	109	4	63
Great Lakes	142	4	79

Insurance 1% of base price + extras + ocean freight

Extras

None

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Cold Heading Quality, Copper and Molybdenum Coat, Cold Drawn Stainless Steel Wire, AISI 410, 0.131"

Category AISI 16

Tariff Schedule Number (s) 609.4540 10 1/2% + additional Duties (see Headnote 4, T.S.U.S.)

Base Price per Metric Ton $1562

Charges to CIF	Ocean Freight	Handling	Interest
West Coast	$ 93	$3	$31
Gulf Coast	109	5	41
Atlantic Coast	109	4	41
Great Lakes	142	4	51

Insurance 1% of base price + extras + ocean freight

Extras

None

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Cold Heading Quality, Copper and Molybdenum Coat, Cold Drawn Stainless Steel Wire, AISI 430, 0.131"

Category AISI 16

Tariff Schedule Number (s) 609.4540 10 1/2% + additional duties (see Headnote 4, T.S.U.S.)

Base Price per Metric Ton $1602

Charges to CIF	Ocean Freight	Handling	Interest
West Coast	$ 93	$3	$32
Gulf Coast	109	5	42
Atlantic Coast	109	4	42
Great Lakes	142	4	52

Insurance 1% of base price + extras + ocean freight

Extras

None

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Library Cataloging Data

U.S. International Trade Commission.
Stainless steel round wire from Japan. Negative determination of "No reasonable indication of injury" in Inquiry no. AA1921-Inq.-17 under the Antidumping act, 1921, as amended. Washington, 1978. Prepared by Nicholas C. Tolerico.

28 cm. (USITC Publication 907)

1. Wire. 2. Wire--Japan. 3. Wire--U.S. 4. Wire--Tariff--Japan. 5. Wire--Tariff--U.S. I. Title.